

Well Water Recommended Testing Schedule

Water Quality Concern (Constituent)	Testing Schedule	Where to Test		
		NMDOH/NMED Water Fair	NMED Liquid Waste Program	Certified Lab
Arsenic	Periodically. When you move in and every 5-10 years.	✓💧		✓
Bacteria and Pathogens (E Coli)	Yearly (Spring is best). Or specifically in the case of a flood event, identifying a major water leak, or if having problems with the septic tank, or if the well/pump has been serviced.			✓
Cadmium	Periodically. As needed*			✓
Electrical Conductivity or Hardness or Total Dissolved Solids	Periodically. As needed	✓		✓
Fluoride	Periodically. When you move in and every 5-10 years	✓	✓	✓
Iron	Periodically. As needed	✓	✓	✓
Lead	Periodically. Test the drinking taps (kitchen sink) in the hot months. Collect first thing in the morning after the water has sat in the pipes overnight.			✓
Manganese	Periodically. As needed			✓
Nitrate and Nitrite	Yearly (spring is best).	✓ (Nitrate)	✓ (Nitrate)	✓
pH	Periodically. As needed	✓		✓
Sulfate	Periodically. As needed	✓		✓
Uranium	Periodically. Probably 5-10 years.			✓
Any Constituent of Concern Based on the human activities in the property/well location (Agricultural or mining activities for example).	Periodically.			✓

Test When*:

There are Natural Disasters, Floods; Well Damage; New Well Construction; Addition of Water Treatment; When Buying A Home with A Well; When Adopting A Child; When Children and Babies Will Be Living in the Home; If Well Has Never Been Tested; Changes in Water Availability (Water Table Dropped).

Learn more at: <https://nmtracking.doh.nm.gov/environment/water/PrivateWellTesting.html>

New Mexico Private Wells Program March 2024

Key: NMDOH- New Mexico Department of Health
NMED: New Mexico Environment Department

💧 Values above 10 micrograms per Liter (mcg/L) or 0.01 milligrams per Liter (mg/L), the maximum contaminant level (MCL) recommended by the EPA, should be verified by a certified drinking water laboratory.



Understanding Your Water Quality Results

Water Quality Concern (Constituent)	Recommended Comparison Value (sample should be less than this value**)	What Can Happen	Consider Water Treatment?		Also Test	Possible Treatment Options			
			Yes	Maybe		Whole House System	At the Tap (Point of Use)	Disinfection	Bottled or Hauled Water
Arsenic (As)	0.01 mg/L* or 10 mcg/L	(Long term exposure) skin or circulatory system problems, certain cancers	✓		Fe, Mn, pH	adsorption media filter or reverse osmosis	adsorption media filter or reverse osmosis		✓
Coliform Bacteria and E. coli	5% TC or 5 CFU/100 mL	Stomach cramps, pain, diarrhea, vomiting, fever	✓		nitrate, nitrite		water purifier	Boiling or chlorine bleach	✓
	Presence of E. coli		✓						
Cadmium (Cd)	0.005 mg/L	Kidney and bone problems, children more sensitive					certified Cd reducing filter or reverse osmosis		✓
Electrical Conductivity (EC) or Hardness or Total Dissolved Solids	1000 mcgS/cm 180 mg/L CaCO3 500 mg/L	unpleasant taste and odor, mineral deposits		✓	pH	cation exchange softener			✓
Fluoride (F)	0.7 mg/L	Ideal amount for oral health							
	2 mg/L	Tooth discoloration		✓			reverse osmosis		✓
	4 mg/L	Tooth and bone problems, children more sensitive	✓				or activated alumina filter		✓
Iron (Fe)	0.3 mg/L	Poor taste, color, plumbing problems		✓	Mn, As	oxidizing filter or cation exchange softener			✓
Lead (Pb)	0.015 mg/L	Adults- kidney problems, high blood pressure Children- physical or mental delays	✓		pH	acid neutralizer system	certified lead reducing filter		✓
Manganese (Mn)	0.05 mg/L	Poor taste, color, staining		✓		oxidizing filter or cation exchange softener			✓
Nitrate (NO3-)	10mg/L	Blue baby syndrome, trouble breathing, possibly death in infants under 4 months	✓		bacteria		reverse osmosis		✓
Nitrite (NO2-)	1 mg/L								
pH	6.5-8.5**	<6.5- dissolve metal in plumbing, tastes metallic >8.5- soda taste, slippery		✓	hardness, CO2; <6.5- lead	<6.5- Acid Neutralizer System; >8.5 ion exchange			✓
Sulfate (SO4-)	250 mg/L	Laxative effect- Children and seniors more sensitive		✓	rotten egg smell- hydrogen sulfide		reverse osmosis or ion exchange or distillation		✓
	500 mg/L	Strong laxative effect	✓						
Uranium (U)	0.03 mg/L or 30 mcg/L	Changes in the kidneys	✓				reverse osmosis		✓

Key: mg/L = milligrams per Liter mcg/L= micrograms per Liter TC= Total Coliform CFU= colony forming units mL= milliliter mcgS/cm= microsiemens per centimeter
CaCO3= calcium carbonate CO2= carbon dioxide *mg/L sometimes shown as ppm or parts per million **pH value should be in this range

Recommend using products certified to NSF/ANSI standards for constituent of concern.

Learn more at: <https://nmtracking.doh.nm.gov/environment/water/PrivateWellTesting.html>

